

**TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S ZOOM MEETING**

**September 28, 2020 at 7:00 PM**

The public is invited to attend/join this meeting from your computer, phone or tablet.

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84620691372?pwd=UTBBNUUxRVc0Y2cvRmFVYVNic2ZrUT09>

**Dial by Phone: 1-646-558-8656**

**Meeting ID: 846 2069 1372**

**Passcode: 422612**

**Please mute your microphone unless you are speaking or want to speak. Inappropriate comments and/or disruptive behavior will result in immediate dismissal.**

**Call Meeting to Order:** Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order concerning imposition on strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, meetings of the Northbridge Board of Selectmen will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**II. PUBLIC HEARING**

**III. APPOINTMENTS/By the Town Manager:**

- A. 1) Jeanne White, Outreach Worker Senior Center
- 2) John D'Agostino, Asst. Plumbing and Gas Inspector
- 3) Jeffrey Grenier, Asst. Electrical Inspector

**B. APPOINTMENTS/By the Board of Selectmen:**

- 1) MBTA Advisory Board / Designee to attend meetings

**IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT**

**V. DECISIONS:**

**C. NSTAR GAS COMPANY, dba Eversource Energy/Request permission to locate, erect and maintain a gas telemeter adjacent to an existing utility pole together with appurtenances thereto, and together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as said Petitioner may deem necessary to be owned and used by Petitioner, in the following public way or ways: **North Main Street - Plan No. D190-30.03-C01, dated July 18, 2019. Present:** Eric Bosworth, Project Engineer (Eversource) and James Shuris, DPW Director**

**D. South Middlesex Non-Profit Housing Corporation – Consent to Encumber and Subordination of Liens**

**Present:** James Hanrahan, Bowditch [[jhanrahan@bowditch.com](mailto:jhanrahan@bowditch.com)]

1) 33-43 Overlook Street, Whitinsville, MA and 2) 25-35 C Street, Whitinsville, MA

**E. Reserved Parking on Church Street - Curb-side pick-up for Valley Café and Peg's Diner/Present:** Paulette Ruth

**F. Pine Grove Cemetery Deed/Gerald Lee Gaudette [Lot No. 15B, single grave, Meadow Path]**

**VI. DISCUSSIONS:**

**G. Northbridge Public Schools – Reopening / Present:** Amy McKinstry, Superintendent

**H. Renaming of the Northbridge Senior Center/Present:** Kelly Bol, Senior Center Director

**I. Shared Streets Project (Linwood Avenue)/Present:** Jim Shuris, DPW Dir. and Erin Reed, HSH

J. Verizon FIOS – Response concerning deployment of FIOS (cable) services in Northbridge

**VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

**VIII. SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS**

**IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

**X. CORRESPONDENCE**

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Town Clerk: 2 Hard copies	<input type="checkbox"/>
Web: Post time-stamped copy	<input type="checkbox"/>

# A.1.

**Sharon Susienka**

**Town of Northbridge**

**Whitinsville, MA 01588**

**RE: Outreach Worker**

**Dear Sharon,**

**Being an experienced Project Manager, the posting for Outreach Worker for the Town of Northbridge sparked my interest. When reviewing the position requirements I was excited to find that my qualifications and personal strengths align with your needs and objectives.**

**I believe that I bring a comprehensive set of skills that will be valuable to the Senior Center and its clients. My Project Manager role allowed me to hone my abilities in reporting and process improvement. My communication and compassion have afforded me excellent customer service skills.**

**I am excited to contribute my talents and proficiency in planning to assist in team efforts. Since I am an engaging communicator with a proven track record in project management, my focus on building strong professional relationships has been a beneficial asset throughout my career.**

**When reviewing my resume, you might notice a gap in employment. My absence is due to my taking time off to assist in the care of my mother, who has been battling Alzheimer's for several years. My experiences with my mother have enhanced my talents in teamwork, determination, and prioritization while managing multiple schedules. I am now settled and prepared to get back into the workforce.**

**Please review my enclosed resume for a more in-depth illustration of my work history. I would appreciate an opportunity to interview at your earliest convenience. I'm eager to discuss how my personality and background fit the Outreach Worker role.**

**Thank you for taking the time to consider my candidacy.**

**Sincerely,**

**Jeanne White**

**Jeanne M. White**

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
Uxbridge, MA 01569

~~508/397-5293~~

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

## **PROFILE**

- Skilled in numerous areas of customer and vendor relations and sales experience
- Supervisory and technical experience
- Specific knowledge and expertise in broad range of business and office activities
- Solid work ethic, strong team orientation, and excellent interpersonal skills

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- Work in conjunction with vendors, contractors and installers to coordinate new store openings, remodels and relocations
- Assessed and resolved customer service issues
- Clarified sales questions regarding products and services
- Prepared and processed invoicing and order entry of direct and dealer sales
- Organized and recorded cash receipts and bank deposits
- Coordinated shipments to ensure timely arrival
- Primary backup for Customer Service/Office Manager

## **SOFTWARE EXPERIENCE**

Microsoft Office- Excel, Word, PowerPoint  
Google Docs

## **WORK HISTORY**

**\*Staples, Inc. Framingham, MA Project Coordinator, Fixtures and Equipment Dept. October 2003-August 2019**

**\*Staples, Inc. Framingham, MA Project Manager Administrative Assistant, Fixtures and Equipment Dept. October 2000-July 2002**

**ChildLife, Inc. Holliston, MA Customer Service/Sales 1981-April 2000**

## **EDUCATION**

**Bryant College Smithfield, RI Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, May 2000  
Concentration in Marketing Graduated Cum Laude, Dean's List**

**Dean College Franklin, MA Associate Degree in Business Administration, May 1995 Member of  
Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society, President's List, Graduated with Highest Honors**

## John D'Agostino

---

**Objective** Assistant Plumbing & Gas Inspector for the Town of Northbridge

**Experience** 1987 –To present

**J. D'Agostino Plumbing & Heating Inc**

- Residential homes new and renovation
- Multi Family & Condo projects
- Commercial projects new and renovation
- Service work and small repairs

1997–To present

**Prosper Development Corp**

- Specialize in land development
- Construction of new homes
- Renovating of older homes

2000 – To present

**Service Solutions Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning**

- Residential service work for plumbing and heating
- Residential service work for air conditioning

2001 – 2016

**Assistant Plumbing and Gas inspector**

- Town of Millville Ma.

2016– To present

**Plumbing and Gas inspector**

- Town of Millville Ma.

**Education**

1979–1983 Tri-County Regional Vocational School Franklin Ma.

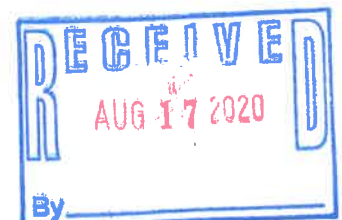
- Masters plumbing and Gas & Journeyman's license
- Construction supervisors license

2000- To present

- Central MA Plumbing & Gasfitting Inspectors Association

2000 – To Present

- PHCC of Massachusetts



2010 – To Present

- IAPMO of New England

**Conclusion**

I feel I would be a good fit for the town with my commercial and residential experience in the plumbing field and would benefit the towns growing needs.

# A.3.

**Jeffrey Grenier**  
~~1294 Hill Street~~  
**Whitinsville, MA 01588**  
~~274-696-3911~~  
**License #326490**

**Qualifications:** I started in the electrical field as an apprentice for a company called Cunningham Electric, I learned the Commercial and residential side of the electrical field. After obtaining my Journeyman Electrical License I started my own electrical business. Over the past 30 years , I have become a very knowledgeable and well experienced electrician. I have worked both commercial and residential jobs throughout the Blackstone Valley, I have been a lifelong resident in town, and I am also familiar with many of the contractors in the area.

**Experience:** Cunningham Electrical – 3 Cricklewood Dr., Leicester, MA 01524  
I worked as an electrical apprentice for 5 years. I did Commercial and residential work , Home repairs, work orders, stock list, standing in on inspections and many other duties acquired.

Jeff Grenier Electric – 1294 Hill St., Whitinsville, MA01588

I have owned and operated this business for the past 30 years. I have quoted jobs from start to finish; I have complete small service calls to bigger projects, I have done both commercial and residential work throughout the Blackstone valley area. I attend continuing education classes to keep up on the changing codes and new regulation's implemented.

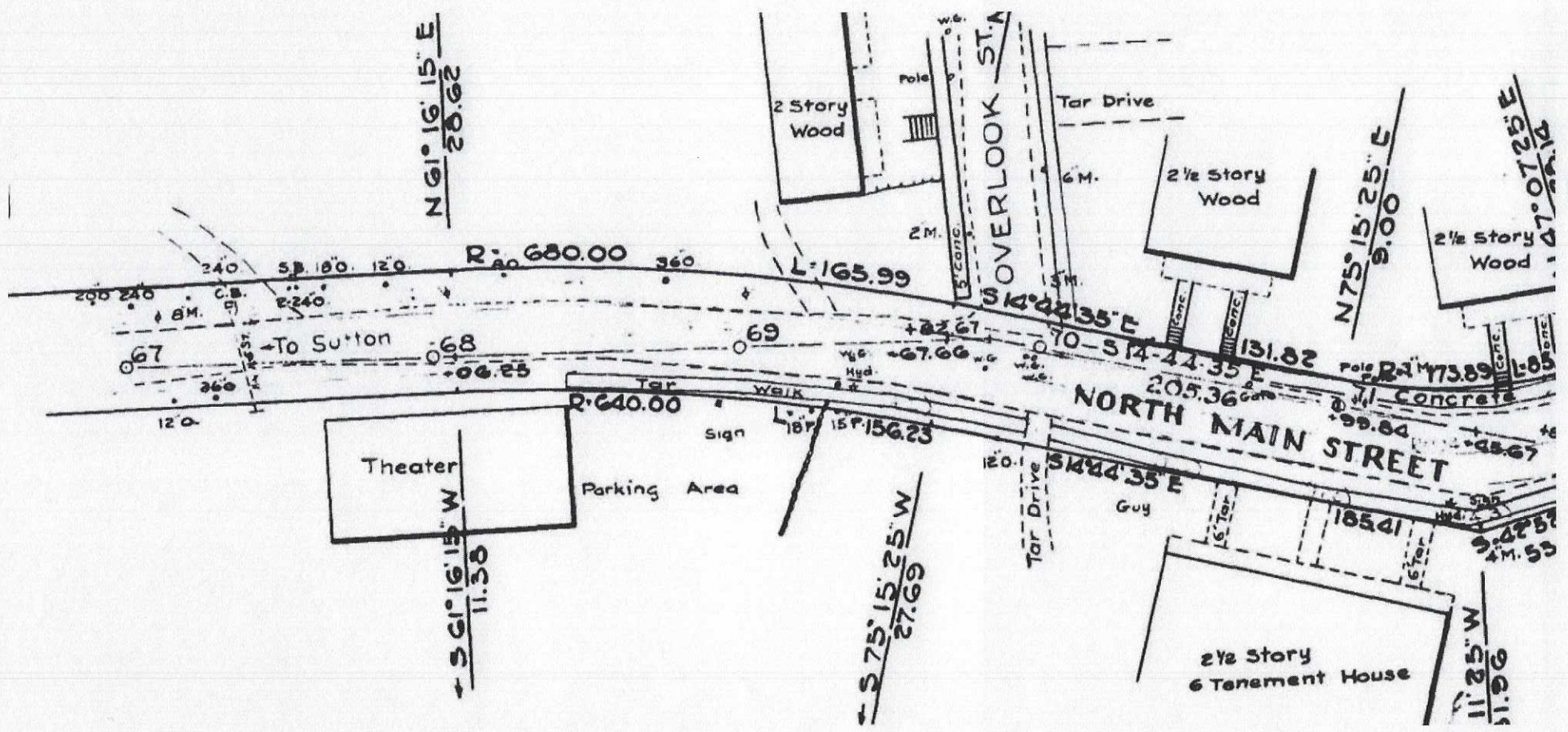
**References:** Available upon request

C.

ES Proposed GAS Telemeter Install – R22201 – N Main Street, Northbridge, MA

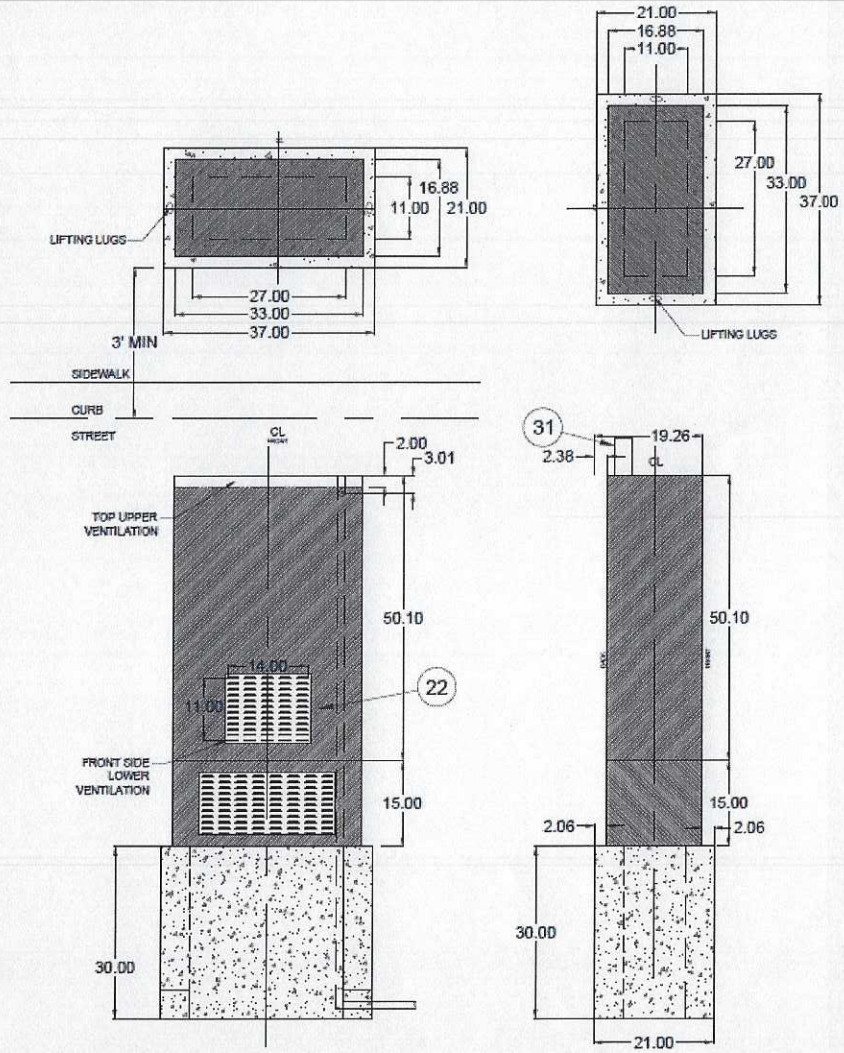
The screenshot displays the MuniMapper web application interface. At the top left is the Town of Northbridge seal, followed by the text "MuniMapper: Northbridge, MA" and links to the "Town of Northbridge Web Site" and "Disclaimer". To the right is the "MUNICIPAL EOTSS MAPPER" logo. Below the header is a search bar with the text "Search for a location" and various navigation icons. The main map area shows an aerial view of a residential street, N Main St, with property lines overlaid in pink. A white callout box with a pointer indicates the "Proposed GAS Telemeter Location" on N Main St. To the right of the main street, a row of houses is labeled with addresses: 62 OVERLOOK ST, 60 OVERLOOK ST, 64 OVERLOOK ST, 58 OVERLOOK ST, 48 OVERLOOK ST, and 68 OVERLOOK ST. A street named "Overlook St" is also visible. The bottom of the map includes a scale bar (10 m, 20 ft), a scale of 1:564, and coordinates (184,821.64m 874,028.77m). The Google logo is in the bottom left corner, and a "Basemaps" dropdown menu is in the bottom right corner.











- NOTES:**
1. LOCATION OF EXISTING UTILITIES AND UNDERGROUND STRUCTURES TO BE FIELD VERIFIED.
  2. ROADWAY, SIDEWALKS, AND GRASS DISTURBED SHALL BE RESTORED TO EXISTING CONDITION OR TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE CITY OR TOWN BY CONTRACTOR.
  3. 6" OF DRUSHED STONE SHALL BE INSTALLED AROUND AND UNDER CONCRETE BASE.
  4. CONCRETE PAD SHALL BE INSTALLED PLUMB AND LEVEL.
  5. CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBLE TO CONTACT DIG SAFE PRIOR TO ANY DIGGING.
  6. NOT USED.
  7. LIVE GAS WORK WILL BE COMPLETED BY EVERSOURCE. CONTRACTOR SHALL INSTALL NEW GAS SERVICE. REFER TO EVERSOURCE CS-300. 210 AND 210.
  8. NEW GAS SERVICE SHALL BE PRESSURE TESTED PER EVERSOURCE CM-110.
  9. EVERSOURCE WILL OBTAIN STREET OPENING PERMIT AND REQUIRED POLICE DETAILS. CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING REQUIRED ELECTRICAL PERMITS.
  10. CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE ALL NECESSARY MATERIALS TO PROPERLY GROUND THE TELEMETER CABINET.
  11. CONTRACTOR SHALL FOLLOW ALL STATE AND LOCAL ELECTRICAL CODE REQUIREMENTS.
  12. CONTRACTOR SHALL FABRICATE AND PROVIDE THE TELEMETER CONCRETE BASE.
  13. CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE ALL NECESSARY MATERIALS AND LABOR TO INSTALL THE PREFABRICATED TELEMETER CABINET FOR A COMPLETE AND FUNCTIONING SYSTEM.

A	INCORPORAL COMMENTS	05/19/20	A03EAPWFL
B	ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION	07/16/19	MFW/RES
No.	Description	Date	Dwg/Gk/Ap
Revision/Status			
<b>EVERSOURCE ENERGY</b>			
TELEMETER			
STANDARD CONSTRUCTION DRAWING			
DIMENSIONS			
<b>DO NOT SCALE</b>		<b>SCALE: AS NOTED</b>	<b>SHEET 2 OF 4</b>
<b>VERIFY ALL DIMENSIONS BEFORE CONSTRUCTION</b>		Drawn By: MFL MFL: 07/16/19 Approved By: GMS EG 07/16/19	Sheet Number: 2 Rev. No: 1
		Created By: GMS MFL: 07/16/19 Filed: 07/16/19	File Number: 10 ID-190-30.03-C02

D.

CONSENT TO ENCUMBER and SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT

The **TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE**, a Massachusetts municipal corporation (the “Town”), present holder of a Certificate Not to Encumber (the “Certificate Not to Encumber”) from **SOUTH MIDDLESEX NON-PROFIT HOUSING CORPORATION** (the “Corporation”) dated July 9, 2007 and recorded with the Worcester Registry of Deeds (the “Registry”) in Book 41690, Page 1, as amended by an Amendment to Certificate Not to Encumber (the “Amendment to Certificate Not to Encumber”) dated October 11, 2007 and recorded with the Registry in Book 42029, Page 82 (the Certificate Not to Encumber and Amendment to Certificate Not to Encumber are hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Certificates”) encumbering that certain property known and numbered as 33-43 Overlook Street, Northbridge, Massachusetts (the “Premises”), for mutual consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, subordinates the Certificates and the obligations secured thereby to a mortgage covering the Premises given by SMNPHC to **MIDDLESEX SAVINGS BANK** dated September \_\_\_\_, 2020 (the “Middlesex Mortgage”) recorded with the Registry in Book \_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_, to the same extent as if the Middlesex Mortgage had been executed and recorded before the execution and recording of the Certificates. Further, the Town hereby consents to the Property being encumbered by the Middlesex Mortgage.

*[Signature pages to follow]*

33-43 Overlook Street, Northbridge, Massachusetts

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said Town of Northbridge, South Middlesex Non-Profit Housing Corporation and Middlesex Savings Bank have caused their corporate seals to be hereto affixed and these presents to be signed, acknowledged and delivered in their name and behalf by the undersigned signatory, duly authorized, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

**TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Its: Chairman, Board of Selectmen

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Worcester, ss.

On this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2020, before me, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared the above Chairman of the **Town of Northbridge Board of Selectmen**, who proved to me through satisfactory evidence of identification, which was  photographic identification with signature issued by a federal or state governmental agency,  oath or affirmation of a credible witness,  personal knowledge of the undersigned, to be the person whose name is signed on the preceding or attached document(s), and acknowledged to me that they signed it voluntarily for its stated purpose.

*(official seal)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public  
My commission expires:

*[Signatures continue on following page]*

**MIDDLESEX SAVINGS BANK**

**SOUTH MIDDLESEX NON-PROFIT HOUSING CORPORATION**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: James T. Cuddy  
Its: Executive Director

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Middlesex, ss.

On this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2020, before me, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, proved to me through satisfactory evidence of identification, which was  photographic identification with signature issued by a federal or state governmental agency,  oath or affirmation of a credible witness,  personal knowledge of the undersigned, to be the person whose name is signed on the preceding or attached document(s), and acknowledged to me that s/he signed it voluntarily for its stated purpose as \_\_\_\_\_ of **Middlesex Savings Bank**.

*(official seal)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My commission expires:

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Middlesex, ss.

On this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2020, before me, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared **James T. Cuddy**, proved to me through satisfactory evidence of identification, which was  photographic identification with signature issued by a federal or state governmental agency,  oath or affirmation of a credible witness,  personal knowledge of the undersigned, to be the person whose name is signed on the preceding or attached document(s), and acknowledged to me that he signed it voluntarily for its stated purpose as **Executive Director of South Middlesex Non-Profit Housing Corporation**.

*(official seal)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My commission expires:

CONSENT TO ENCUMBER and SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT

The **TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE**, a Massachusetts municipal corporation (the "Town"), present holder of a Certificate Not to Encumber (the "Certificate Not to Encumber") from **SOUTH MIDDLESEX NON-PROFIT HOUSING CORPORATION** (the "Corporation") dated June 27, 2006 and recorded with the Worcester Registry of Deeds (the "Registry") in Book 39365, Page 300, as amended by an Amendment to Certificate Not to Encumber (the "Amendment to Certificate Not to Encumber") dated July 9, 2007 and recorded with the Registry in Book 41505, Page 135 (the Certificate Not to Encumber and Amendment to Certificate Not to Encumber are hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Certificates") encumbering that certain property known and numbered as 25-35 C Street, Northbridge, Massachusetts (the "Premises"), for mutual consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, subordinates the Certificates and the obligations secured thereby to a mortgage covering the Premises given by SMNPHC to **MIDDLESEX SAVINGS BANK** dated September \_\_\_\_, 2020 (the "Middlesex Mortgage") recorded with the Registry in Book \_\_\_\_, Page \_\_\_\_, to the same extent as if the Middlesex Mortgage had been executed and recorded before the execution and recording of the Certificates. Further, the Town hereby consents to the Property being encumbered by the Middlesex Mortgage.

*[Signature pages to follow]*

25-35 C Street, Northbridge, Massachusetts



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said Town of Northbridge, South Middlesex Non-Profit Housing Corporation and Middlesex Savings Bank have caused their corporate seals to be hereto affixed and these presents to be signed, acknowledged and delivered in their name and behalf by the undersigned signatory, duly authorized, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20~~17~~.  
20

**TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Its: Chairman, Board of Selectmen

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Worcester, ss.

On this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2020, before me, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared the Chairman of the **Town of Northbridge Board of Selectmen**, and proved to me through satisfactory evidence of identification, which was  photographic identification with signature issued by a federal or state governmental agency,  oath or affirmation of a credible witness,  personal knowledge of the undersigned, to be the person whose name is signed on the preceding or attached document(s), and acknowledged to me that they signed it voluntarily for its stated purpose.

*(official seal)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public  
My commission expires:

**[Signatures continue on following page]**

**MIDDLESEX SAVINGS BANK**

**SOUTH MIDDLESEX NON-PROFIT HOUSING CORPORATION**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: James T. Cuddy  
Its: Executive Director

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Middlesex, ss.

On this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2020, before me, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, proved to me through satisfactory evidence of identification, which was  photographic identification with signature issued by a federal or state governmental agency,  oath or affirmation of a credible witness,  personal knowledge of the undersigned, to be the person whose name is signed on the preceding or attached document(s), and acknowledged to me that s/he signed it voluntarily for its stated purpose as \_\_\_\_\_ of **Middlesex Savings Bank**.

*(official seal)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My commission expires:

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Middlesex, ss.

On this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2020, before me, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared **James T. Cuddy**, proved to me through satisfactory evidence of identification, which was  photographic identification with signature issued by a federal or state governmental agency,  oath or affirmation of a credible witness,  personal knowledge of the undersigned, to be the person whose name is signed on the preceding or attached document(s), and acknowledged to me that he signed it voluntarily for its stated purpose as **Executive Director of South Middlesex Non-Profit Housing Corporation**.

*(official seal)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My commission expires:

E.

September 22, 2020

Re: Curbside Pickup

Dear Selectmen;

As you know, the Covid Pandemic has hit small businesses especially hard. On behalf of The Valley Café and Peg's Diner, I am requesting an area on Church Street be designated as a "Pick Up Only" spot to help our take out business. With limited seating and cold weather approaching, we will need to rely heavily on our take out business to stay viable. I have included pictures on the spot on the east side of Church St. in front of the Café and Diner. There is already a crossing sign in front of the space and we will pay for a sign below that says "Pick Up Only"

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Paulette & Jeff Ruth, Valley Café

Jim Gagnon, Peg's Diner





*Know all Men by These Presents,*

F.

That the Town of Northbridge, in the County of Worcester and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in consideration of One Thousand Six Hundred Dollars, paid by **Gerald Lee Gaudette, III, of 124 Eben Chamberlain Road, Northbridge (Whitinsville), MA**, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, does sell and convey to said Gerald Lee Gaudette, III that certain cemetery **Lot No. 15B, a single grave situated on the way called Meadow Path, in the Pine Grove Cemetery**, and the sole and exclusive right of burial of the dead therein, subject to the following rules and restrictions for the regulation and government of said Cemetery; viz:

1<sup>st</sup>. That the said Lot shall not be used for any other purpose than as a place of burial for the dead, and proper Cemetery uses, such as the Town may approve; and no trees within the Lot or the Cemetery shall be cut down or destroyed without consent of the Town.

2<sup>nd</sup>. That if any trees or shrubs in said Lot shall become in any way detrimental to the adjacent lots or avenues, or dangerous or inconvenient, the Town shall have the right to enter into said Lot and remove said trees or shrubs, or such parts thereof as are dangerous, detrimental or inconvenient.

3<sup>rd</sup>. That if any monument or other structure whatever, or any inscription, be placed in the said Lot which shall be determined by the Town to be offensive, the Town shall have the right to enter upon said Lot and remove said offensive or improper object or objects.

4<sup>th</sup>. If a fence shall at any time be erected or placed in or around said Lot, the materials or design of which shall not be approved by the Town, it must be forthwith removed upon direction of the Town, and if not so removed the Town shall have the right to enter upon said Lot and remove said fence.

5<sup>th</sup>. The said lot shall be holden subject to all by-laws, rules and regulations made and to be made by the Town.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said Town of Northbridge has caused these presents to be signed and sealed by its Board of Selectmen, this 28th day of September, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty.

-----  
-----  
  
-----  
-----  
  
-----

H.

**NORTHBRIDGE COA**

**presents**

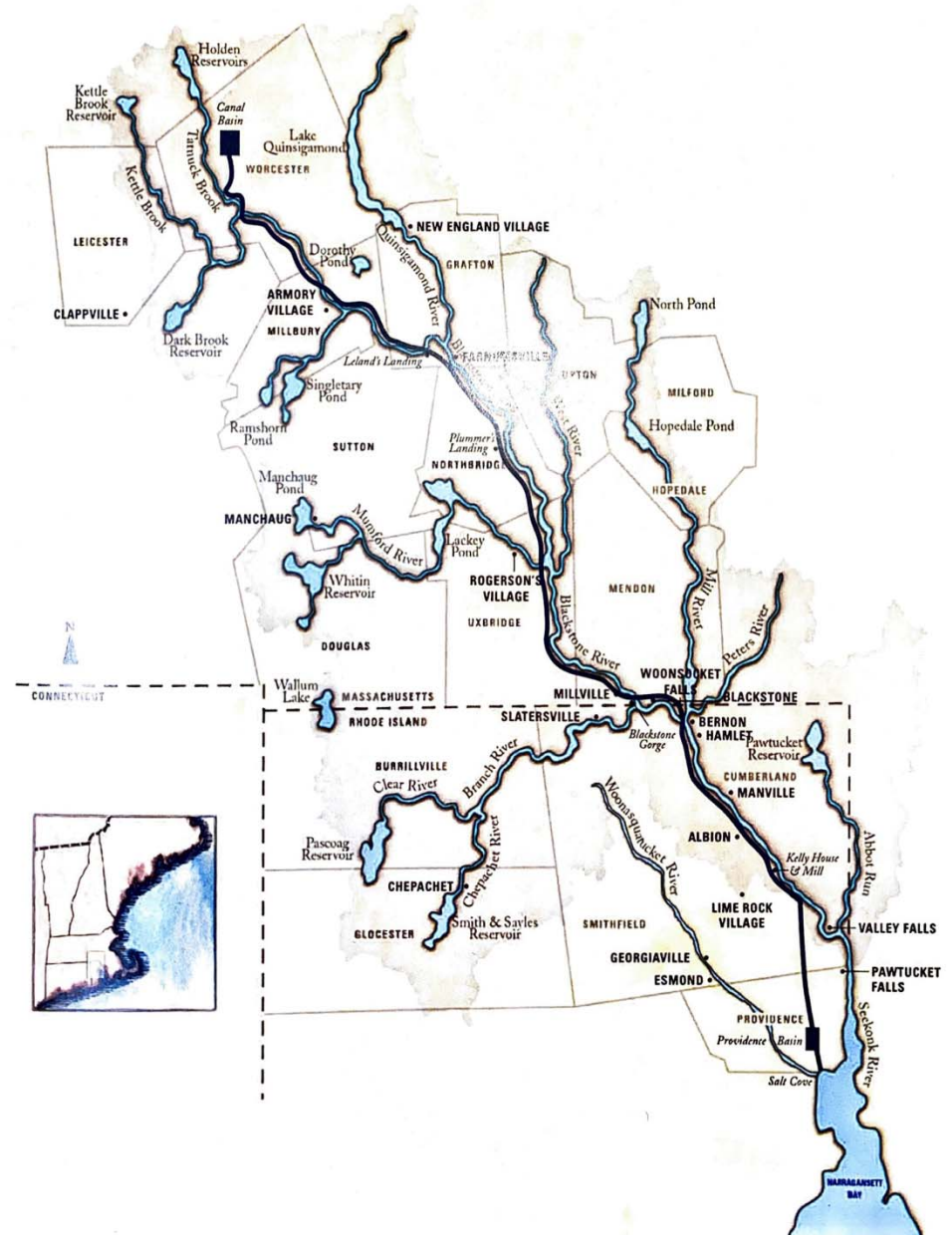
# Name Change for the Senior Center



## BLACKSTONE RIVER CANAL

As it traverses its 45 mile route from Worcester Mass to Providence RI, the Blackstone River descends 451 ½ feet, releasing energy with every inch as it drops. In the 1790's entrepreneurs sought to harness the river's energy, initially establishing mills to spin cotton thread and using the river to power the machinery. With the multiplication of spinning mills in the Blackstone Valley, farmlands were pushed back, and eventually the village emerged as a model of social organization. Although the manufacturing revolution worked its way through the valley in the first decades of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the rapids and falls of the Blackstone conspired against the budding industrialists. Trade patterns did not move along the river as it was too difficult to transport goods upon it. The Blackstone Mill owners looked to the construction of a canal to speed the movement of raw materials and finished goods, AND to lower the cost of freight. It wasn't until 1796 that the idea of building a canal to improve north-south transportation thought the valley was first raised. The merchants of Boston side tracked the idea though, fearing that the Worcester-Providence trade route would not be in their best interest. In 1828 the canal was completed, connecting Worcester to providence as well as the numerous villages throughout the Blackstone Valley. Although the canal era was short lived it bonded the mill villages with the economic centers of the Worcester and Providence and the course of the canal furnished the route for the next technology, the railroad.

## BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY CANAL MAP, CIRCA 1830







TINSVILLE MASS

PLUMMERS CORNER

## PLUMMER'S LANDING

Lock #25—The Whitinsville Lock of the Blackstone Canal is part of the bridge on Church Street extension where the road crosses the canal. This area, which is named for the landowner and businessman who owned the land throughout most of the 19th century: Israel Plummer

Israel Plummer was the eldest of eleven children, born to Ebenezer and Pamela Plummer in Thompson, CT, in 1810 (Could not find how or when he arrived in Northbridge)

In 1836, Israel Plummer, a young, enterprising—and subsequently successful businessman built a store beside a boat basin and dock in the area known then as Intervale—to us, Plummer's Landing.

Approximately mid-way on the canal between Worcester and Providence, Plummer's Landing became an important commercial center, receiving manufactured goods from the cities and mill villages and agricultural products from the rural countryside. Goods shipped from Plummer's landing included textiles, lumber, wood shingles, cut stone and machinery. Israel Plummer was one of the largest users of the canal in the Blackstone Valley and when the canal era ended in 1848, the enterprising businessman opened a depot and shipped goods on the Worcester and Providence Railroad. Aside from Paul Whitin and sons, Israel Plummer was one of the largest taxpayers in town. His holdings included 10 acres in the Intervale area, Plummer Granite Co., one engine, tools, three houses, the depot, a store to barns, and 50 acres of land (taxes paid in 1847--\$11,050)



# LOSING OUT SAL PREPARATORY TO REMOVAL!

Flour, Meal, Co n B Oat Short and Fine Feed as low as the lowest.  
Lime, Cement, and Plater constantly on hand.

## DRY GOODS WHICH MUST BE SOLD.

A very,

### FAMOUS CLOTHING

As well as a large quantity of Out-of-Style Ga ; to be sold at almost any price.

50 prs. Ladies' Kid and Morocco Shoes, costing 75 cts. to \$1.12, down to 50 cts.  
50 prs. do., cost from 50 to 75 cts., marked down to 38 cts.  
100 prs. Children's Leather, Kid and Morocco, cost from 30 to 58 cts., choice for 2  
50 prs. Boys and Youths Thick and Thin Shoes; cost from 75 cts. to \$1., choice for  
50 cents. 50 prs. Boys' and Youths' Boots, cost from \$1.25 to \$1.50; choice for \$  
50 prs. Ladies' Gaiter Boots, cost from \$1.17 to \$1.58; choice for 75 cts.  
50 prs. Men's Thick Boots, cost from \$2 to \$3., choice for \$1.50. Also, a fine asso  
ment of Men's Double Soled Water Proof Fall and Rubber Boo  
&c. &c. at satisfactory prices.

A large room filled with Crockery and Glass be of  
some price, before removal.

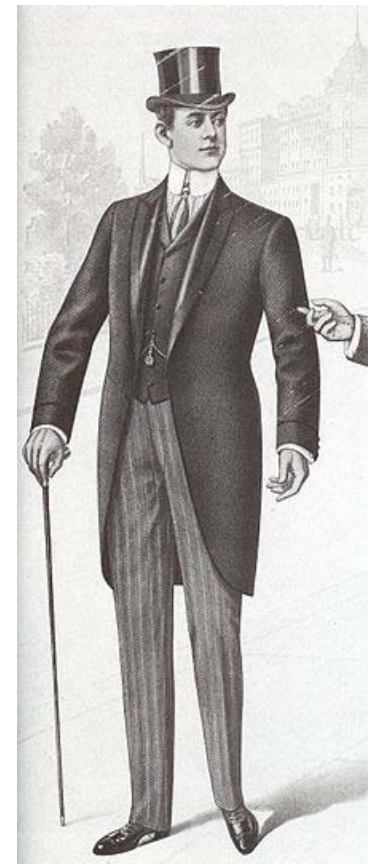
Also, FURNITURE, MATTRESSES, WOODEN and TIN WARE, and many oth  
articles, too numerous to mention, which will be sold at a great sacrifice.

**Come once and you will be sure to come again!**

be disposed of, and which will be

Unfortunately, I was unable to find any kind of picture or likeness of Israel Plummer. However in the March 4, 1981 edition of the Blackstone Valley Tribune, Alice Hall, a resident of Upton, who personally knew Israel Plummer, described him as being “a tall, commanding figure with a ruddy complexion and white side whiskers. He wore a cape-coat in winter and frequently a high silk hat. He also carries a gold-headed cane.” (Sounds like quite the 19th century gentleman ~ photo resemblance only)

Israel Plummer was described as a leader in social and civic affairs. He was a faithful member and participant of the Worcester Musical Association; and he served as a director for many years. He often gave Temperance lectures, which were quite popular at that time. He served as a town official for many years. According to Town Meeting Reports from 1836-1880, Israel had served for 41 years, holding no fewer than 58 town government positions (sometimes 3 or 4 at the same time). His first position, in 1836, he was the Measurer of Wood, a role he served in for many years. He was the Sealer of Weights & Measures. Served on the School Committee and was a Highway Surveyor. (Jim & Jaime would love to know there were ELEVEN Highway Surveyors appointed each year throughout the 1850's)



At two different times, Israel served as Assessor. In 1851 he was the Viewer of Fences and served as a Selectman at four different times: 1839, 1848, 1853 and 1854. He was on the list of Jurors from 1851-1877. By 1877, it appears Israel stepped away from town service. Yet he did compose a writing of the first history of the Blackstone Canal, which he delivered to the Worcester Society of Antiquity in 1878. After the death of his wife in 1875, Israel moved to his daughter, Sarah Knowlton's home in Upton, where he later died in 1888.



The Northbridge Senior Center is presently located in the former Plummer School 1921-1982. Interestingly, this building is not the first Plummer School. The original school was located at the site of the old Plummer Depot, down near the railroad. The “new” Plummer School was initially built as a two classroom school, expanded to six classrooms (two on the first level and four on the second floor).



## The Plummers School

The picture here is that of the old Plummers School scholars. Maybe you are in it.

Certainly the man is who loaned the photo to me for this occasion. His name is Joseph Garabedian of Garabedian Bros. Clothing store, Church Street. He is the fifth boy from the left, in the second row from the top. The tall girl behind him is Hester Deane, and the boy next to him is his brother Charles.

The girl behind him is a colored girl, and the first and third boy from the left, same row as the Garabedian brothers, are her brothers.

As I remember it, Mr. Garabedian said the boy on his right was John Deane. He did say Katrina Duhamell (Bakker) was also on the picture, but I forget where. He also pointed out a William Smith, some of whose brothers, sisters and cousins I knew quite well, later.

Hester Deane worked in Daley's Store, Uxbridge when I worked at Draper's, Hopedale. We would get on the same electric car at Uxbridge Center, I getting off at Linwood and she going on to Plummers' Corner.

John, I got to know later. He called me frequently with reference to the pictures used with my Tribune articles. On occasion, he, very kindly, let me use his. I took him to several of my slide shows, when he became unable to get around.

Along with his confinement he developed a sense of importance that one just couldn't help notice.

A handwritten notice pinned to the door said "ring bell and walk in." John was a very good photographer and many of his pictures were used by the old Whittin "Spindle."

The school teacher of the group, by the way, was, according to Mr. Garabedian, a Miss Devlin.

I know less about this school than any of the others. It stood a short distance across the railroad

tracks to the right of the road. On that site, on the 1849 map of Northbridge, a building is indicated as "Plummers' Depot."

Whether that building was taken down and replaced by the school building we are not certain. In any case, there is a picture of the school on page 73 of the Northbridge Bicentennial 1 Commemorative Journal, titled "Plummer, 1870," the date presumably when it was built.

The School Report for 1912 has this interesting note: "The new building at Plummers was finished in time for the opening of the fall term and was immediately filled by the children of that village, who have heretofore attended at the old building in that district or at Rockdale."

After the new school was erected at the end of Highland Street and Church Street it is safe to say, I think, that the old Plummers School, the picture of which we show, was taken down.

### Reflection

Several times while looking at the picture, Mr. Garabedian would mumble something that was deep, yet very vivid, in his memory - something he reiterated from time to time, something with awesomeness and wonderment as he reflected on the simple and terrifying thought he could neither understand nor speak a word of English.

A great barrier, indeed, but which in time he came to recognize as a challenge. He overcame it as he did others that followed. Today Mr. Garabedian stands as a living symbol of the oft quoted immigrant who started business in a hole in the wall and wound up owning the building.

### Report of School Physician

In the 1912 School report from which we reported



## peter hackett's HISTORIC SIDELIGHTS

"the new building at Plummers etc., etc.)" many other items attracted our attention which we felt were worth passing along. We were very much impressed with the care and consideration given the health of the children. In this particular report the physician was Dr. Charles H. Harriman. He addressed his report to the School Committee of Northbridge. Very briefly, here it is:

### Gentlemen:

The school physician again most heartily congratulates the town of Northbridge upon the splendid physical condition in which he found the pupils of our schools at the annual medical examination for the present year. With the assistance of the district nurse, 1,454 pupils were thoroughly examined. Of course, among such a large number of children of school age there must of necessity be some having a physical defect of some kind, but the number was extremely small as the following list will show." In addition to the list there were 231 cases of enlarged tonsils, 56 of which needed an operation. "Of the 1,454 pupils examined, 704 had one or more badly decayed teeth; most had from five to ten."

"Parents should see that all physical defects existing in their children are remedied before the little ones begin their school life, for young children are more susceptible to disease than older ones. When a child enters school for the first time it is the beginning of its future usefulness to itself, its parents and its country. How great that usefulness may be depends mostly upon its parents--"

The foregoing is history, but it impressed the writer with the tremendous care and consideration the school and the town authorities give to the pupils' health as well as their education.



**'Pal', the Highland Street neighborhood dog, would visit the students daily.**

**Photo courtesy of Carol Brower**



Pal at the Plummer's School



Shortly after its closing, with funding from the Town, grants awarded and assistance from FINE (Friends of Northbridge Elders), students from BVT (Blackstone Valley Tech) renovated the building. In 1985 the Northbridge Senior center relocated from the small storefront on Church Street to the present location at 20 Highland Street.



At the August 18, 2020 Council on Aging meeting, the Board voted unanimously to rename our building:

**Plummer Place – Home of the Northbridge Senior Center**

**Tonight, on behalf the COA Board, Staff and FINE, we are asking for your support and approval of this name change.**

# Acknowledgements

In closing, I would like to send sincere thanks to those who helped in my research:

1. Kelly Bol, who gave me the project to research
2. Linda Zywiec, Town Clerk for allowing me to comb through the old books
3. Carol Brower for sharing her old family photos
4. The Worcester Antiquities Museum
5. Jeanne Hebert at the Chamber of Commerce
6. Bruce Frieswick who suggested we remember Israel Plummer

A sincere THANK YOU to all

Respectively submitted,

*Jean Mistretta*

Jean Mistretta, COA Chairman

## Trivia:

- ✓ In 1870's, two of the programs taught in the schools were manners and morals
- ✓ In 1888, Northbridge had 15 schools with 26 teachers : 25 female and 1 male – the average salary for male teachers was \$120/month while female teachers earned \$45.67/month ( I sincerely hope we have made progress since then)
- ✓ Most children did not stay in school past the age of 14 ( I know we have improved in this area)

# Linwood Ave Shared Streets Improvements

*Presented by*

**Erin Reed and Steven Tyler, P.E., HSH**

**Jim Shuris, P.E., Town of Northbridge**



**NORTHBRIDGE**  
MASSACHUSETTS

Whitinsville • Linwood • Rockdale • Riverdale • Northbridge Center

*Presented to*

**Northbridge Board of Selectmen**

**September 28, 2020**



**HOWARD STEIN HUDSON**

Engineers + Planners

# Timeline of Work

Engineers + Planners



- **Linwood Avenue Schools Traffic and Circulation Study**
  - March 2020
- **Shared Streets Grant Opportunity**
  - August - October 2020
- **Complete Streets Tier 3 Grant**
  - Applications Due November 2020



HOWARD STEIN HUDSON

# Linwood Avenue Schools - Traffic/Circulation Study

Engineers + Planners



## ■ March 2020

- Northbridge Middle School
  - *Arrival/Dismissal*
  - *Parking Occupancy*
- Whitinsville Christian School
  - *Arrival/Dismissal*
  - *Parking Occupancy*
- Northbridge High School
  - *Parking Occupancy*

## ■ Linwood Ave Congestion

## ■ Parking Lot Underutilized for Drop-off/Pick-up

## ■ Linwood Ave Parking Lot

- 101 Spots
- 47% Occupancy



HOWARD STEIN HUDSON

# MassDOT Shared Streets Grant Program

Engineers + Planners

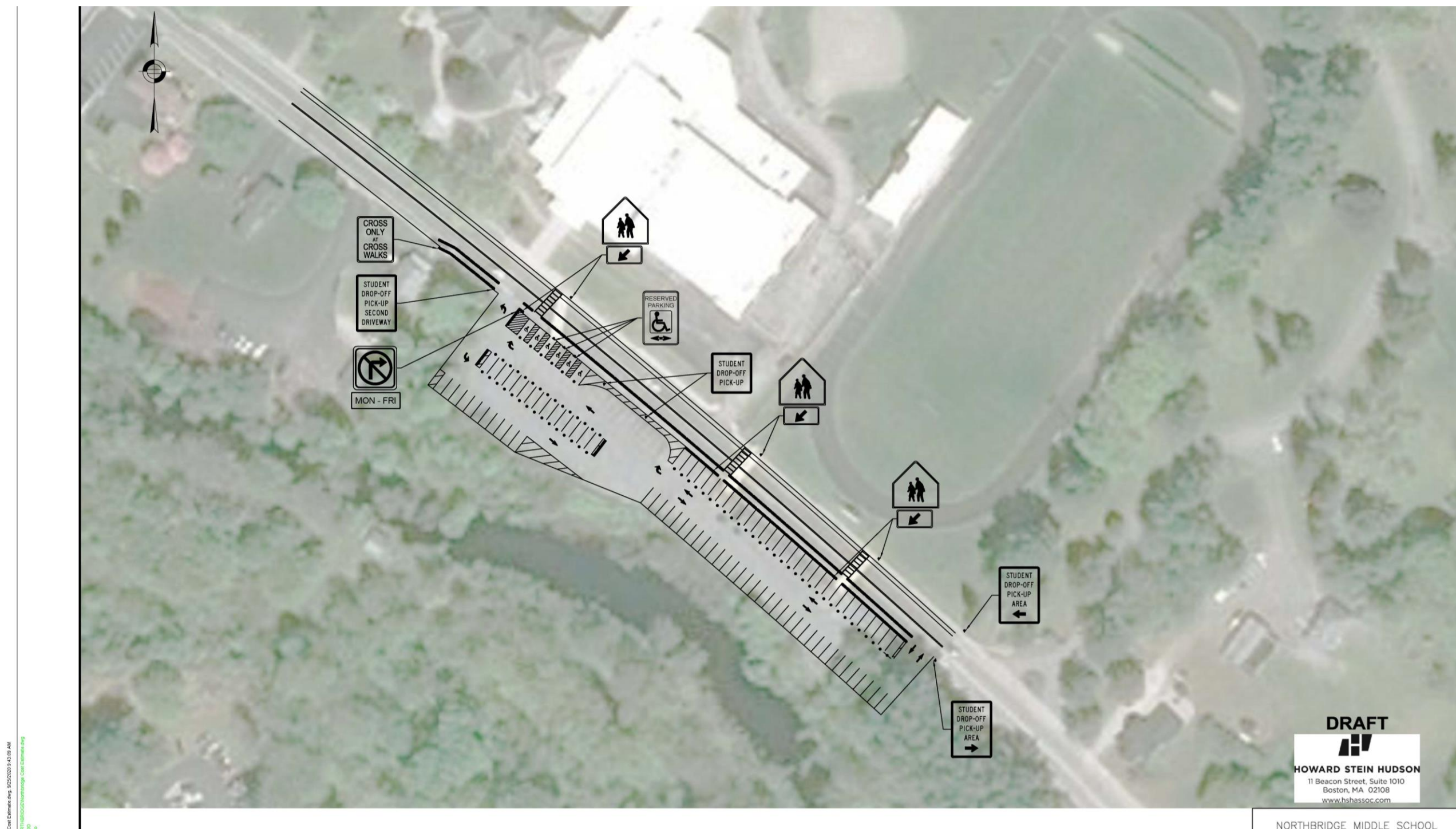


- **Response to COVID-19**
- **Quick/Build Launch Program**
- **\$5,000-\$300,000 Grants**
- **Pilots for Permanence**
  - Projects that show strong potential to be made permanent
- **Shared Streets and Spaces**
  - Supporting increased rates of walking and/or biking by increasing safety and enabling social distancing
- **Safe Routes to School**
  - Creating safe routes to schools (and childcare and programs for children and youth), including safer walking and biking networks with lowered vehicle speeds



HOWARD STEIN HUDSON

# Shared Streets Implementation

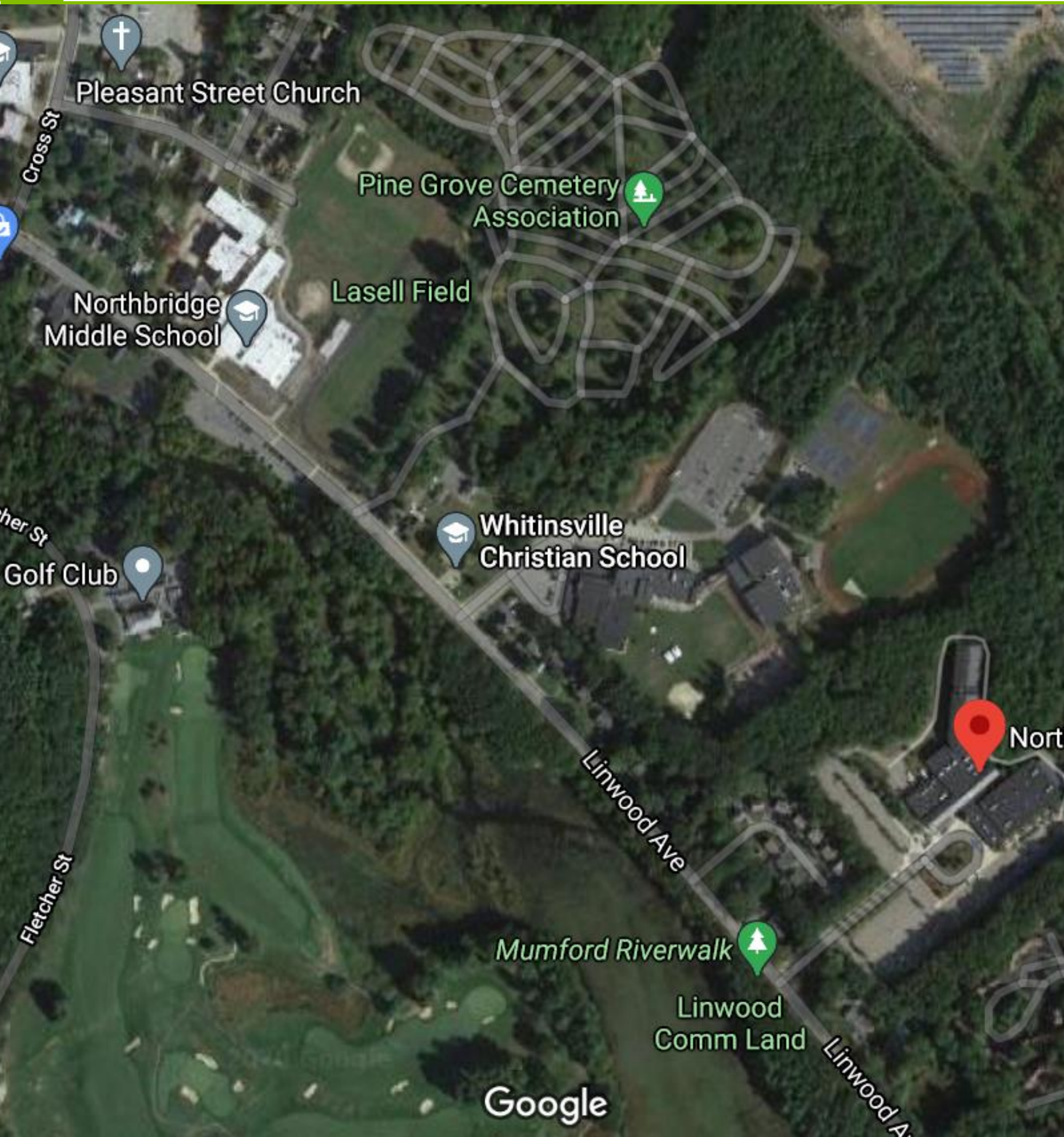


- Drop-off area
- Temporary sidewalk
- Crosswalk improvements
- Two (2) new ADA-accessible parking spaces
- New entrance and egress patterns
- New signage



# MassDOT Complete Streets Program Tier 3

Engineers + Planners



- Projects Identified on Complete Streets Prioritization List
- Permanent Sidewalk on Linwood Avenue across from the Middle School
- Sidewalk Connection to Mumford Riverwalk
- Curb Ramp Improvements
- Crosswalk Improvements at Cross Street and Linwood Avenue
- Application Due November 2nd
- Permanent Complete Streets Design in 2021\*
  - \* If awarded grant



HOWARD STEIN HUDSON

# Contact Information

Engineers + Planners



- **Jim Shuris, P.E., MBA**
  - [jshuris@northbridgema.org](mailto:jshuris@northbridgema.org)
  
- **Erin Reed**
  - [ereed@hshassoc.com](mailto:ereed@hshassoc.com)
  
- **Christopher Malsch, P.E.**
  - [cmalsch@hshassoc.com](mailto:cmalsch@hshassoc.com)
  
- **Steven Tyler, P.E.**
  - [styler@hshassoc.com](mailto:styler@hshassoc.com)



HOWARD STEIN HUDSON

**Sharon Susienka**

---

**From:** Cummings, Ellen M <ellen.m.cummings@verizon.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 16, 2020 4:58 PM  
**To:** Sharon Susienka  
**Cc:** Melissa Ciaramitaro; Adam Gaudette  
**Subject:** Re: [E] Verizon service (TV and Internet) for Northbridge

Good Afternoon Adam,

I am writing in response to your inquiry regarding Verizon FiOS deployment within the town of Northbridge. Thank you for taking the time to communicate with me.

We are pleased that communities such as Northbridge have expressed strong support for FiOS. You have expressed interest in establishing cable competition within the town on many occasions and we appreciate your willingness to negotiate a local cable franchise with Verizon. Verizon, however, has no current plans to extend the FiOS network beyond its current footprint.

Verizon appreciates your comments and we look forward to working with your office, on any issue involving Verizon and the town of Northbridge.

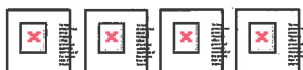
Once again, thank you for your interest.



**Ellen Cummings**

Regional Director  
Verizon  
State Government Affairs

O 508 421 3459  
15 Chestnut Street  
4th Floor  
Worcester, MA 01609



On Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 12:13 PM Sharon Susienka <[ssusienka@northbridgemass.org](mailto:ssusienka@northbridgemass.org)> wrote:

Hi Ellen:

The current Town Manager, Adam Gaudette, asked that I contact you about attending a future Selectmen's meeting to discuss the probability of Verizon services (TV and Internet) coming to Northbridge. The next couple of Select Board meetings are scheduled for Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> and Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at

7:00pm. If those dates do not work, let me know and I am happy to provide you with additional dates. Also, please note that at this time, all meetings are conducted via Zoom.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you.

*Sharon L. Susienka*

*Exec. Asst. to the Town Manager*

*Town of Northbridge*

*Phone: 508-234-2095*

*Fax: 508-234-7640*

